

Raynhams' Newsletter - June 2022

Dates for your diary

- **Friday 10th, 17th, 24th** - Village Hall Bar open from 7 to 10:30 pm.
- **Thursday 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th** - Modern Line Dancing in the Village Hall from 7 pm. Cost is £5 if you want to drop in and take part.
- **Saturday 11th, 18th, 25th** - Knit and natter in the Village Hall from 10 am to midday.
- **Sunday 12th** - Tractor Run starting from Village Hall Car Park from 9:30 am. Light refreshments in Village Hall from 8 am.
- **Saturday 18th June** - West Raynham Open Gardens from midday to 5 pm.
- **Saturday 25th June** - Village disco under marquee in Village Hall Car Park from 7 pm.
- **Sunday 26th June** - Raynhams' Village Day from 12 to 4 pm in West Raynham.

Church Services

- **Sunday 12th June** - Evening Prayer at St Mary's, East Raynham, from 6 pm with Revd. Roger Massingberd-Mundy.
- **Sunday 19th June** - Morning Eucharist at All Saints, Helhoughton, from 10:30 am with Canon Patrick Foreman.
- **Sunday 26th June** - Morning Eucharist at St Martin's in South Raynham from 10:30 am with Revd. Canon Stuart Nairn.

West Raynham Village Hall Committee

Committee meetings start at 6:30 pm and are open to residents of The Raynhams. Dates for forthcoming meetings are:

- **18th July**
- **19th September**
- **October** - date to be confirmed for AGM and elections

Raynham Parish Council

Minutes, Agendas and reports of Parish Council meetings are available to view and download from our website at www.raynhampc.info, which also includes the latest news from Norfolk County Council. Parish Council meetings are held in West Raynham Village Hall starting at 7 pm, and the forthcoming dates for this year are:

- **26th July**
- **27th September**
- **29th November**

Tom FitzPatrick, Parish Councillor.

Newsletter Info and Contact Details

- Deadline for articles or notices is the 28th of each month.
- westray.newsletter@gmail.com to send in articles or manage subscriptions.
- <https://www.raynhampc.info/documents> to view and download newsletters.

Raynham Platinum Jubilee Celebrations - 2nd June

This free event was funded by Raynham Parish Council and held in the Walled Garden at Raynham Hall. Thanks to Bridget Howarth and Sid for providing several photos from the event, and if you have any pictures you would like to share then send them in an email to westray.newsletter@gmail.com.



Tractor Run - Sunday 12th June



The village hall will be open from 8 am for teas, coffees, and sausage rolls. The vintage tractors will leave the Village Hall car park from about 9:30 am for a tour of the neighbouring villages including Castle Acre.

Tractor runs will also be taking place on **24th July, 25th August and 25th September.** For spare places please contact Ann on 07775 514575.

Coach Trip to St Ives and Ely - Sunday 16th July

A final reminder - if you want to book a place for the coach trip then please get in touch with Janice Hankey as soon as possible. The coach will leave West Raynham at 9 am on Sunday 16th July, and the coach party will spend two and a half hours in St. Ives and two and a half hours in Ely.



**JANICE'S
JOY RIDE**



A Coach Trip
To
St Ives & Ely
July 16th
From West Raynham Village Hall **9am**
FREE
Courtesy of the **SOLAR Farm Fund**

To join in please book your seat **ASAP**
To book please contact:
Janice: 07776025040
Monica: 07804329067



West Raynham Open Gardens - Saturday 18th June

There will be about 20 gardens taking part in the Open Gardens event including Raynham Hall. The gardens will be open from 12 noon until 5pm so we hope you will take the opportunity to have a stroll round the village and enjoy a rare peak into your neighbours' gardens - and invite your friends to join you. The school playing field will be open for parking. Tickets are £5 per person and children are free. Both tickets and refreshments will be available in the Village Hall.

Raynhams' Village Day - Sunday 26th June

Raynhams' Village Day will soon be here, and we hope to be seeing lots of you there to join in the fun with your family and friends. Besides the Fakenham Ukes, Kings Morris men and Dandini Puppets who will be performing during the afternoon, there will be food and craft stalls including 'have-a-go' at felting; table-top games including a buzzer game and Splat the Rat (courtesy of Helhoughton Village Hall); classic vehicles; plants on the plant stall; an Open Studio at Park Lodge; a book sale in the Reading Room and, of course, a tombola and raffle. There will be a beer tent in the car park and other refreshments in the Village Hall. Ice cream from 'Scoops for All' and hot food (with veggie options) from 'Banyard's Barbee box' will also be available. The raffle draw will take place at 3:30 pm along with a presentation of prizes. Fingers crossed for sunny weather!

Please note, there will be restricted access to West Raynham from about 8 am until 5 pm with 'Road Closed' signs around The Street. If you normally park your car in the Street it might be a good idea to move it to the school car park during the event.

A big thank you to everyone who has helped with organisation and to those who have already volunteered to man stalls on the day. We will need help to put up the large marquee on **Thursday 23rd June from 5 pm**: it's a big job so everyone willing to lend a helping hand would be very welcome - please get in touch by sending an email to westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

Don't forget that there will be a '60s, 70s and 80s' disco for local residents the night before on **Saturday 25th from 7 pm** in the marquee - so do come and join in!

Donations for a Summer Hamper

Please can you donate items which will make up a Summer Hamper as a raffle prize for the Village Day. Biscuits, jams, chutneys, and tins of fruit and fish are all welcome. Please leave your contributions in the Reading Room, along with any suitable prizes for a tombola.

Solar Fund Committee

Applications are now open for the Solar Fund for projects that benefit The Raynhams. Previous community awards have included funding for snowdrop planting on the village green; grassland/wildflower management in St. Margaret's and a fish & chip supper.

Application forms can be obtained by contacting David Sidell, Chair of the Solar Fund (email: davidsidell@outlook.com). Completed forms must be returned by **30th September** and can be sent to David Sidell (Sid) at 5, The Bowling Green, West Raynham, Fakenham, Norfolk, NR21 7HD.

Newsletter Photo Competition

Thanks to all those who sent in photos for May, and all the entries were judged by Paula of Paula Harrison Photography in Sculthorpe.



Winner: Tracy Jolliffe



Runner up: Twiggy Bigwood

Reminder of the basic rules

The competition is open to all ages with a maximum of five images per participant submitted each month (by the 25th). Photos should have been taken in 2021 or during 2022. Digital images must be in LANDSCAPE not portrait orientation; be of high resolution (min. 300 dpi); full size (i.e. not cropped), and relevant to the Raynhams. Sorry but we cannot accept printed photographs or images.

All winners and runners-up will feature in the end of year calendar, which will be printed just in time for Christmas to use as stocking fillers or send to friends and family

Send your photos for May before June 25th to westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

Jubilee Celebrations



HM The Queen's very first experience of Jubilee was not her own Silver Jubilee in 1977, but for her grandfather, George V, in May 1935. Celebrations had begun with a carriage procession through London to St Paul's cathedral on 6 May for a service of thanksgiving, followed by an appearance by the Royal Family on the balcony of Buckingham Palace. The King continued to take carriage rides around the capital during May, and, on Queen Mary's birthday, he

and the Queen were accompanied by their two granddaughters, Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret.

On the afternoon of that Jubilee Day, 6 May, West Raynham village green was crowded with people from the Raynhams and Helhoughton for a fancy-dress carnival parade. The long procession marched down to the Raynham Hall sports ground, with a bus laid on for those unable to walk the distance. Lady Agnes Durham, daughter of the 5th Marquess, opened the proceedings and judged the competition. Miss B. Hewson won first prize as a Victorian lady; Mrs Harper and Mrs Lee as the Duke & Duchess of Helhoughton were second; and third was Archie Seppings as an Arab Sheik. In the children's competition, prizes were awarded to Peggy Rolfe as the Duke of Wellington, John Harper as a Scarecrow and Margaret Roy as 'Grannie'.



A full programme of sports was organised for the children before tea was provided for everyone in the Marble Hall and at 7pm they gathered by the Hall steps to hear a message of greetings and good wishes from Marchioness Townshend who had spent the day in London. The children were all presented with souvenir mugs and gifts of chocolate and oranges before everyone returned to the Marble Hall for an evening of music and entertainment.

Victoria may have been Queen for over 60 years but George V's was the first Silver Jubilee celebration of any British monarch in history. Victoria had celebrated her Golden Jubilee on 20 June 1887 with a Royal Banquet attended by 50 foreign kings and princes, and a procession through London the next morning in an open landau, escorted by Indian cavalry, for a thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey. According to Mark Twain, the procession "*stretched the limit of sight in both directions*".





Queen Victoria arriving at St Paul's Cathedral on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service, 22 June 1897 (John Charlton 1849-1919)

For her Diamond Jubilee ten years later, she processed to St Paul's Cathedral where a short thanksgiving service was held outside the building as the Queen was too frail to manage the steps, with crowds of people watching from specially erected stands. In her journal the Queen wrote: *"No one ever, I believe, has met with such an ovation as was given to me, passing through those six miles of streets . . . The cheering was quite deafening & every face seemed to be filled with real joy. I was much moved and gratified."*

Raynham villagers were also enthusiastic in their celebrations. The park and surrounding areas were decorated, flags flew from the Hall and the church bells rang out repeatedly throughout the day. For the Golden Jubilee, around 200 school children with flags and banners assembled in West Raynham to proceed down to the church to join an overflowing congregation for a thanksgiving service and then, afterwards, led by the Fakenham Volunteer Band, moved to the *"appointed place of dining, where an abundant repast was partaken of."* Tobacco was provided for the men and lemonade, cake and sweets for the children, and everyone rose and cheered loudly when a toast was offered to 'The Queen'. The following day *"a bountiful supply of good things"* was sent to those too ill to attend.

To mark Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, every labouring man in the Raynhams was given a holiday and two tickets for the Norfolk Agricultural Show in Fakenham. Many may also have enjoyed the party atmosphere in Fakenham a few days later and joined what looks to have been a grand procession through the Market Place and along Norwich Street.



Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in Fakenham 1897 (reproduced with the kind permission of the Fakenham Community Archive)

Back in East Raynham, thanksgiving services were held at the parish church with special music composed by Mr Parker, the organist, and over a hundred children were treated to a 'sumptuous repast' in the park at Raynham Hall. After tea, swings, see-saws, races and games were arranged until nearly 9 o'clock when each child was presented with a jubilee mug.

George III is credited with beginning the tradition of marking jubilees in this way and his own Golden Jubilee in 1809 was a lavish and noisy affair. The tradition continues this year, both nationally and in the Raynhams, where Raynham Estate once again played host for our celebrations of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, a term invented for her, with a picnic and activities in the park, and the lighting of a beacon to celebrate her remarkable 70 years on the throne.

Bridget Howarth.

Insects in Gardens

I am very grateful to James Hickman for sending me a photo back in April of what he said might be an interesting insect. It was a picture of a wasp taken in his garden next to the ruins of St Margaret's church in West Raynham.



At first, I thought it was a spider-hunting or a digger wasp, then looking through possibilities on the internet I finally think it might be the parasitic wasp *Ichneumon stramentor* and a female of this species. More information on the possible identification can be found at: <https://www.naturespot.org.uk/species/ichneumon-stramentor>.

Interestingly the wasp is a parasite of the caterpillars of two moth species which I found to be relatively common in West Raynham during moth trapping last year. Adults of the Large Yellow Underwing are found throughout summer, and adults of the Setaceous Hebrew Character fly in early summer and autumn (two generations per year). The caterpillars of both species are generalist feeders of broad-leaved plants.

There are 49 records of *I. stramentor* in the UK held by the National Biodiversity Network (NBN), and only one record in Norfolk from 2021 at Shouldham Warren, west of Marham. Records and locations can be found at:

[https://records.nbnatlas.org/occurrences/search?q=lsid%3ANHMSYS0000899757&nbn_loadin g=true&fq=-occurrence_status%3A"absent" - tab_mapView](https://records.nbnatlas.org/occurrences/search?q=lsid%3ANHMSYS0000899757&nbn_loadin g=true&fq=-occurrence_status%3A)

James and I plan to submit the photo to NBN to see if it might be accepted as a possible second sighting of *I. stramentor* in Norfolk.

Paresh Shah.

Nature Notes for May 2022

First a huge thank you to Twiggy Bigwood and Nigel Middleton for stepping in to do the nature notes for the last two months. It was nice to get a different perspective and how wonderful to hear about the reintroduction of beavers at Sculthorpe Moor. I hope we will have updates on their progress in the months and years to come.

The last couple of months has been peak migration season and it is always a joy to see or hear the first of our summer birds back in the area. This year, however, it has been slow, hard work. While the weather has frequently been dry and sunny, the succession of cold, northerly winds has certainly held things back.

Late March to early April is the big changeover with the last of our wintering birds heading off. Redwings, siskins and bramblings were the first to go and fieldfares left in mid-April. On the incoming side, only chiffchaffs (always the first) put in an appearance in March, and for the first time in a long while I didn't find any blackcaps until well into April.

On 10th April I was delighted to find a male ring ousel up by the Solar Farm. This is a member of the thrush family, essentially like a blackbird but with a striking white crescent-shaped band across its chest. It is only on passage here, heading north to its upland breeding habitat, but wonderful to see. I had been hoping to find some wheatears - another passage migrant - on the rough grazing land around the solar farm, but no luck this year. The "rouzel," as birders refer to them, was great compensation.

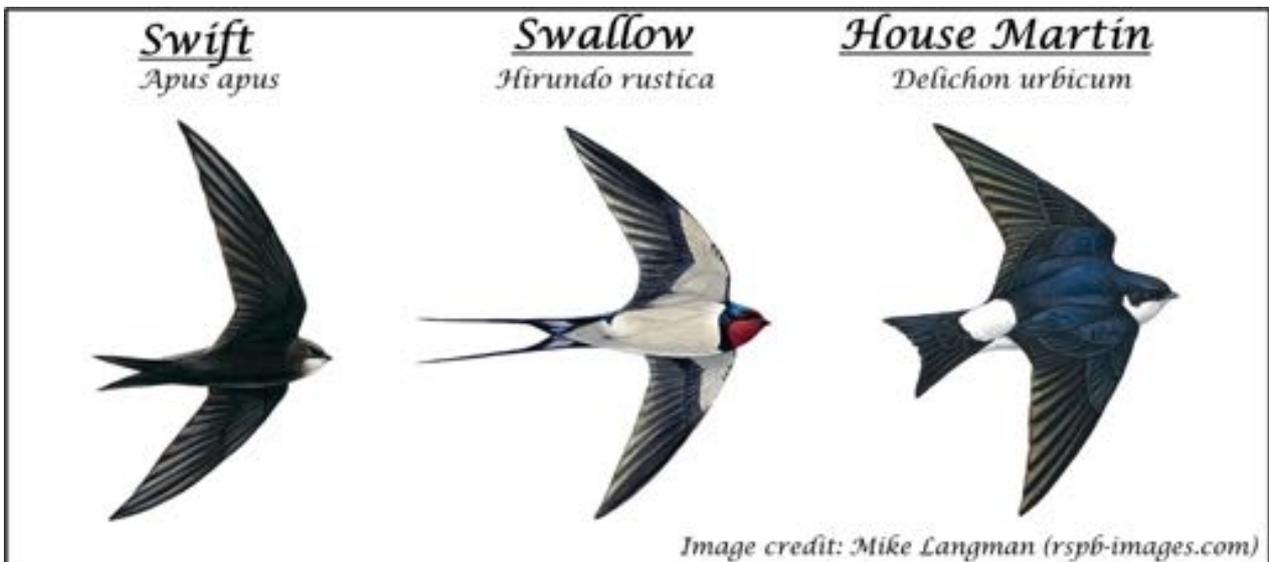
I can usually set my watch by when Françoise Walker messages me to announce the first cuckoo has returned. She duly obliged on 17 April. These emblematic birds are quite common along the Wensum corridor although difficult to see and only rarely make it up to the village.

Up and down the country many people have been saying that swallows and house martins are thin on the ground this year. Like everything else, they were late this year - well into the second half of April - but at least numbers in West Raynham seem about normal. However, across the wider countryside, I agree they seem well down in numbers. I also felt this on a recent trip to southern France.

Swifts, by contrast, turned up on time overnight on 6/7 May and by the 9th our camera-monitored nest was re-occupied. It was a bit touch and go at first, as a starling had taken to roosting in the same part of our roof. Within a few days both adult swifts were back, and the starling was seeking alternative accommodation.

The first egg was laid on 25th May and the full clutch of three eggs was completed by the 29th. Hopefully all three will hatch and make it through to fledging in late July. Throughout May it is mostly the breeding adults that can be seen. Numbers should build up from beginning of June when the non-breeding birds return and spend a few weeks screaming round the houses in dare-devil pursuit of each other - one of the avian treats of West Raynham.

In case you are not sure about telling the difference between swifts, swallows and house martins, the picture below should help. Swifts are essentially all black, have a screaming call and nest in tiled roofs. Swallows and martins are more similar, have slower more fluttery flight and nest in buildings (barns, passageways in the case of swallows, and under eaves in the case of martins). Swallows have long tail streamers and house martins have distinctive white rumps.



Amongst the other summer visitors there are reasonable numbers of whitethroats, lesser whitethroats, reed and sedge warblers. In early May I saw a hobby over my garden, Nigel reported hearing a grasshopper warbler along the Wensum and at the end of the month I was pleased to find a spotted flycatcher along Lime Avenue.

Turning to butterflies, it has been a good spring for orange tips, peacocks and small tortoiseshells, but brimstones have been unusually scarce. Most notable has been the current invasion of painted lady butterflies that began in the third week of May. These are in fact migratory butterflies that originate from tropical Africa! Amazingly, some make it as far north as the Arctic Circle. In the autumn, painted ladies return south, flying at an altitude of 500m above ground. In all, they make a round journey of over 9,000 miles, which is more than the famous Monarch butterflies of North America. However, it is not the same individuals - there are a number of steps in this journey and different generations of butterflies complete each section.

Some of you may have noticed that all the bird cherry trees along the river valley have been stripped of their foliage and covered in a cloak of cobwebs, like a death shroud. This is the work of the caterpillars of the bird-cherry ermine moth. Normally they exist in smaller numbers, but occasionally reach infestation levels. Apparently, the trees will recover and should be back to normal next year.

David Stubbs.



West Raynham Village

and

Raynham Hall

**OPEN
GARDENS**

18th June 2022

12 noon - 5pm

Entrance to all gardens £5

Children Free

Teas & Refreshments in Village Hall

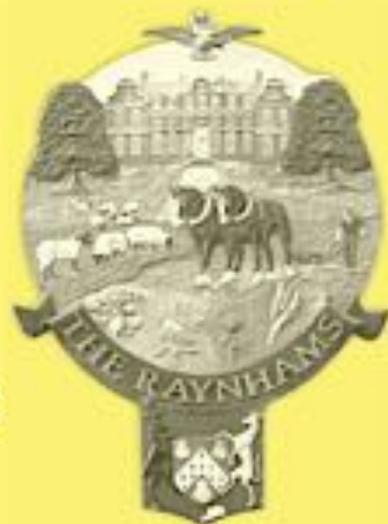
All proceeds to local charities

THE RAYNHAMS VILLAGE DAY

Sunday 26th June

12-4 pm Free Entry

Fakenham Ukes
Kings Morris Men
Dandini Puppets
Classic Cars



Beer tent - Refreshments
Craft & food stalls
Tombola - Raffle

Games - Plants - Books

Cash only for refreshments and some stalls
Free parking

West Raynham - NR21 7EZ - Off A1065